

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02095 251029Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DHA-02
ORM-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 /041 W
-----252121Z 098939 /66

R 250959Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5395
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2095

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, NI, IS, ET, US
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR YOFTAHE DIMETROS

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 1952, (B) LAGOS 3128

1. FORMER ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA YOFTAHE DIMETROS MET WITH CHARGE MARCH 24 (REF A) AND INDICATED HE IS ANXIOUS TO DETERMINE HIS FUTURE. HE SAID HE WAS BEING ASSISTED BY ISRAELI FRIENDS AND HAD ONLY LIMITED MEANS TO SUPPORT HIMSELF AND FAMILY. HE ASKED THAT AID OFFICER TED MORSE BE CONTACTED IN LAGOS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS NEPHEW AND NIECE, WHO ARE NOW WITH HIM IN ISRAEL, BEING PLACED IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOLS. HE SAID THAT MORSE HAD OFFERED TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER.

2. HE ALSO ASKED THAT AMEMBASSY MONROVIA CONTACT FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS AND REQUEST HIM TO INFORM WODAJI KIFLE, FORMER ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER NOW RESIDING IN LIBERIA, THAT HE (DIMETROS) CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH
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EMBASSY TEL AVIV.

3. DIMETROS SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT HE COULD STAY FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD IN ISRAEL AND THAT HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO GO TO THE U.S. OR TO FIND A POSITION WITH AN AMERICAN FIRM IN AFRICA.

4. COMMENTING ON THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, HE SAID THAT SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL BANTI IN FEBRUARY, THE SITUATION HAD BECOME COMPLETELY CHAOTIC. THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE, DERG, HAD BEEN CUT IN HALF AS A RESULT OF ASSASSINATIONS AND EXECUTIONS. HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD LAST MUCH LONGER. MANY SENIOR ETHIOPIAN DIPLOMATS, LIKE HIMSELF, HAD DEFECTED BECAUSE IT HAD BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, HE ENVISAGED (PERHAPS "HOPED" IS A BETTER WORD) THAT CHANGES WOULD OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO RETURN AND TO RESUME WORKING FOR HIS COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL EXILE GROUP WAS THE ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION WHICH OPERATED FROM LONDON AND THE SUDAN, BUT THAT HE WAS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH IT OR ANY OTHER GROUP.

5. DIMETROS ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT OF HEARING FROM AMBASSADOR EASUM UPON THE LATTER'S RETURN TO NIGERIA.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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